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Friday Book Report

Startling Charges Leveled at 'Secret Team

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Most Americans would recoil with horror at the idea of a military junta aiming cannon at the White House and taking over the U.S. government, South America style, but if we may believe a retired Air Force colonel named L. Fletcher Prouty, it has already happened in Washington, without the guns.

The disturbing and frightening factor is that Prouty



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has the credentials, having served for nine years as contact man between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon, plus a well documented 400 pages to back up the sub-title of his new book, "The CIA and its allies in control of the United States and the world."

The book is "The Secret

Incomplete as received

"Secret Team," to denote a tightly knit team of powerful men from the CIA, the National Security Council and the Pentagon which, he states, has conspired, maneuvered and organized para-military operations to tighten its stranglehold on U.S. government policy.

Prouty not only charges that it was this Secret team which maneuvered the U.S. into the Vietnam war but hints that the group may have played a part in the assassination of President John Kennedy after it learned that Kennedy planned to destroy the ST.

So alarming are the charges made by Prouty that a reader is tempted to

tion rather than fact, but on page after page one is constantly reminded that this is real history the author is talking about.

"The conflict in Vietnam stands as a costly and frightening example of how the U.S. military force can be drawn into an operation in pursuit of the unconventional para-military activities of the CIA," writes Prouty.

Prouty zeroes in on the late Allen Dulles, director of CIA for eight years, as the man who did the most to change the CIA from its original and only legally assigned task of coordinating intelligence into an agency up to its ears in creating revolutions, changing governments and changing history.

Prouty points to Dulles' own book, "The Craft of Intelligence," published in 1961 after he retired, as, "no more than a final compilation of all the soothing syrup and old wives tales Allen Dulles concocted and poured over the fevered brows of men in high office for 25 years."

One of the most devastating charges made by Prouty is that the so-called "Illegal" release of the "Pentagon Papers" was actually engineered by the CIA itself, in an effort to disengage that agency from responsibility for the Vietnam war.

"It is quite fantastic to find people like Daniel Ellsberg being charged with releasing official secrets simply because the labels on a piece of paper said 'Top Secret,' when the substance of many of the words written on those papers was patently untrue and no more than a cover story. Except for the fact that they were official lies, these papers had no basis in fact," writes Prouty.

Prouty charges that Dulles himself, while director of the

CIA, leaked to the press many stories taken from "Top Secret" files when such leaking served his purpose.

Prouty points out that when the CIA was first formed, under a law signed by the late President Harry Truman, it was given by law only one task, the coordination of intelligence, and was never even authorized to collect intelligence.

He then quotes Truman as saying, a few days after the assassination of President Kennedy, in 1963, "For some time I have been disturbed by the way the CIA has been diverted from its original assignment. It has become an operational and at times a policy-making arm of the Government. I never had any thought when I set up the CIA that it be injected into peace-time cloak-and-dagger operations."

The former president then added that the CIA had become "a symbol of sinister and mysterious intrigue."

"Who knows what thoughts passed through his (Truman's) mind during those thirty days from Nov. 22, to Dec. 22, in 1963, thoughts that led him to write those powerful and intense words?" asks Prouty.

Turning to Kennedy and that assassination, Prouty writes that the young President had been thoroughly scorched by the Bay of Pigs incident and after determining that the CIA had been responsible for the entire fiasco, bringing universal world condemnation of the U.S., Kennedy vowed that, "Sometime during his administration the genie of clandestine operations would have to be put back into the bottle."

Then, turning to the assassination itself, Prouty writes, "For those who have been unable to accept the one-man theory of the Warren Commission, there is in

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evidence more than enough pressure from any one of several groups, or their more radical sub-groups, to support the germ of the idea that a sinister conspiracy may have arisen from these pressures. For these groups realized that Kennedy was gaining real knowledge, ex-

perience and political power and that he had to be removed from office before winning the inevitable mandate from the U.S. public which was certain to be his in 1964."

Prouty states that it was Allen Dulles who had a large hand in the writing of the Warren Report.

Then, writes Prouty, "The Secret Team machine, always at its most active and insidious best in adversity, surged forward in the post-Kennedy void. The record shows that Johnson (President Johnson) almost never said no."

Prouty states that the CIA and the ST played a decisive role in historic events in Jordan, Guatemala, the Philippines, Indonesia and the Dominican Republic, as well as its well-known roles in the Bay of Pigs fiasco and, finally, Vietnam.

Some of these operations, when uncovered by the countries involved, resulted in the U.S. government being forced to pay blackmail to the tune of millions, often in military equipment, all without the U.S. public being informed.

Keeping the U.S. public in the dark about these operations, under the guise of "security," was all really a big joke, says Prouty, because all the world, including Russia and China, always knew what was going on.

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